

om country a true account and history of what is done here.  
see Now we are evading the truth. We are not putting the

The PRESIDENT. Will the senator yield a moment? The Chair has been reminded that a motion was made prior to that of the senator from Kentucky, which is the question now before the Senate, to reconsider the vote. That is the first question in regard to the bill.

Several Senators. Let us reconsider the vote.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I am willing to economize time. I consider it as a matter of right that our journal should be true, full, and correct, and the insertion on the part of a senator, when the yeas and nays are read over and his name is omitted, ought not to preclude that correct statement upon the journal which the constitution requires.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair will state again that, by your disposition on his part to have the journal correct, it is made up from what is furnished by the Secretary; it is read over, and no objection is made to its correctness; the decision is announced; other business goes on; and, after other business has progressed, a senator rises and says he wishes to read over and his name is omitted, therefore, to amend an error of this sort, without the unanimous consent of the Senate. Supposing there was no objection, the Chair had directed the correction to be made; but objection being made, of course the record stands as it is.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. If the question is reconsidered, we will make no further remarks.

Mr. MASON. I do not understand that the senator from Rhode Island has preferred a request to have his name inserted. In that case I do not know how it can be entertained.

The question being taken on reconsidering the vote, it was agreed to.

Mr. HUNTER called for the yeas and nays on the amendment, and they were—

The question being again taken on the amendment, it was rejected—yeas 24, nays 26—as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Atchison, Dayton, Bell, Berrien, Butler, Davis of Mississippi, Dawson, Dwyer, Down, Houston, Hunter, King, Knapp, Mason, Morton, Pease, Pratt, Sumner, Tamm, Smith, Sprague, Turner, Wales, and Yulee—24.

NAYS—Messrs. Baldwin, Benton, Bigelow, Cass, Chase, Clarke, Cooper, Davis of Massachusetts, Dickinson, Dodge of Wisconsin, Foster of Iowa, Fremont, Grimes, Harlan, Howe, Hamlin, Jones, Norris, Seward, Shelieis, Sturgeon, Underwood, Walker, and Withrump—26.

The question pending was the amendment of Mr. Cooper, in relation to the article of fuel for the navy, as follows:

Mr. HUNTER. I ask the senator from Pennsylvania if the Secretary of the Navy does not now possess the power to purchase such fuel as may be best?

Mr. COOPER. I am informed he does not. It is necessary to pass a law to invest him with that power.

Mr. HUNTER. I do not perfectly understand the senator. Does he mean to do what he proposes under the contract system?

Mr. COOPER. No, sir. It is only with reference to the particular article of fuel that I propose to abolish the contract system. For example, the ship coal at Richmond, Cumberland, or Philadelphia, and because a bad article, at three cents lower, which they cannot use, is given to them, the people do not understand it. I am told that at Pensacola there are hundreds of tons thrown away every day, because of low quality. For instance, I purchased coal at Philadelphia with the system then in practice, and the consequence was they could not use it all, and some ships were obliged to throw it overboard into the Delaware.

Mr. HUNTER. This same principle would apply to the contract system in relation to all other articles where, under the system, bad articles are sometimes bought. The principle goes to the destruction of the whole contract system, and I hope it will not be adopted.

The amendment was rejected.

CALIFORNIA DRY DOCK.

Mr. BALDWIN. I move to strike out, in the clause which authorizes the Secretary of the Navy to contract for the construction of a dry dock on the coast of California, the words "and directed." The clause now reads: "For commencing the construction of a floating dry dock on the coast of California, \$100,000; and the Secretary of the Navy is authorized to enter into a contract to construct a floating dry dock on the coast of California, and to direct the Secretary of the Navy to make the contract;" omitting the words "and directed," and also the names of the individuals with whom it is proposed to make the contract. As the bill now stands, it places the government in the power of these individuals to demand money from Congress, without any reasonable dispatch. I think it is better that the Secretary of the Navy to make the contract with these individuals.

The question was taken on the motion to strike out the words "and directed," and they were stricken out.

The question then coming back on the motion to strike out the names of the contractors, they were also stricken out.

Mr. BALDWIN. I now move further to amend the bill by erasing the words "it shall be the duty of." The clause now reads: "And it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Navy to enter into an agreement with said contractors, if they will keep the works in repair," &c. I propose to strike out the words "it shall be the duty of," and to insert after the word "Navy" the words "shall be authorized;" so that the Secretary of the Navy shall be authorized to enter into an agreement, &c.

Then I propose to add at the end of the section these words: "On such terms and conditions as he shall deem reasonable." This amendment is in that part of the section which authorizes the contractors to take the picture for other purposes. As the section now stands, it directs the Secretary of the Navy to enter into a contract with a view of permitting them to use the dock on condition that they will keep it in repair. If amended in the manner proposed, it will authorize the contractors to take the picture for other purposes. As the section now stands, it directs the Secretary of the Navy to enter into a contract with a view of permitting them to use the dock on condition that they will keep it in repair. If amended in the manner proposed, it will authorize the contractors to take the picture for other purposes. As the section now stands, it directs the Secretary of the Navy to enter into a contract with a view of permitting them to use the dock on condition that they will keep it in repair. If amended in the manner proposed, it will authorize the contractors to take the picture for other purposes.

The PRESIDENT. The amendments cannot be taken together. The Chair will state the question on the amendments.

Mr. HUNTER. I understand the effect of the amendments is only to make the latter part of the section conform to the other portions.

Mr. BALDWIN. That is the effect of the amendments.

Mr. GWIN. I was not in the Senate, Mr. President, when the amendments offered by the senator from Connecticut were made, and I wish to move to reconsider them. I look upon them as the destruction of the bill. The senator can attain his object when the bill is reported to the Senate.

A Senator. I think it is the duty of the senators from California to be present when amendments are being offered.

The PRESIDENT. That is their own affair.

Mr. HAMLIN. If it were at all necessary I would vote for the reconsideration which the senator asks; but the case stands now precisely what it was before, and I direct the Secretary of the Navy to do a certain thing, and you were to direct him to do so and so, in a particular manner. You authorize him to do the thing, and that is enough. To give any further direction seems to me very much out of place, leaving the house would be recognized, unless you intend it is a horse."

Mr. GWIN. I have another objection to the amendments. It is now left discretionary with the Secretary of the Navy to make the contract, and we know that he has expressed his opinion against making the picture for other purposes. He does not think it is left discretionary with the contractor. The part that has been stricken out required that the contract should be made with particular parties. To strike out that part does not defeat the measure. The contract is still required to be made, only the parties designated are removed. It is not to be made. We designate the parties with whom it must be made. We leave it to the Secretary of the Navy to be responsible for the execution of the law. That is the only mode. There is no responsibility among contracting men; there can be none.

The question being taken separately on the amendments offered by Mr. Baldwin as stated above, they were adopted.

Mr. BALDWIN then offered a further verbal amendment, striking out the word "said," as applied to the persons named with whom the contract was to have been made, their names having been stricken out.

The amendment was agreed to.

JAMES HEARING.

Mr. MANGUM offered the following amendment, stating that upon full deliberation it had met the approbation of the Committee on Naval Affairs:

"That the sum amount of sales y be provided to Wm. J. Mc and Wm. J. S. Sanger be paid to James